

Abstract of the Disclosure

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ADJUSTING THE PRE-LOAD OF A  
SPRING

A pre-loaded spring mechanism includes a  
5 piezoelectric device and a pre-loaded spring operatively  
connected to the device. A voltage source is coupled to  
the piezoelectric device to apply a voltage to the  
device. The applied voltage causes the piezoelectric  
device to undergo a physical dimensional change that  
10 changes the pre-load of the spring. The pre-load of the  
spring is adjusted by selectively varying the voltage  
applied to the piezoelectric device.